

(b) whether telephone service has suffered on account of these obsolete equipments;

(c) the plan of the Government for replacement by electronic exchanges; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be replaced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There are seven MAX-II type stronger Electro-Mechanical exchanges working in Karnataka.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and(d). The proposed plan for replacement is given below:-

- 2500 lines in three exchanges during 1992-93.

-2200 lines in four exchanges during 1993-94.

Solar Power Plant in Jodhpur

7062. SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Rajasthan Energy development Agency for setting up a 30 MW power plant based on solar energy at Mathania in Jodhpur district in Rajathan;

(b) if so, the present stage of the said project;

(c) whether the Government of Rajasthan have also requested to the Union Government to hand over this project to a Government undertaking like the NIPPC;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes Sir. The government had received a desibility report for setting up a 300 MW Solar Thermal Power at Methania in Jodhpur District from Rajasthan Energy Development Agency in November, 1988. The proposed technology was based on Parabolic Trough Collectors.

(b) The planning commission while reviewing the feasibility report pointed out some missing sub-system details which are required for operational angle and also the lower cost of the systems which required to be revised and updated. Subsequent to these comments the department constituted a working group with members from Central Electricity Authority, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Deptt. of Power, Department of Non-Conventional Energy sources, Planning Commission, Rajasthan Energy Development Agency and Rajasthan State Electricity Board. The working group submitted its report in October, 1990, which was sent to Rajasthan Energy Development Agency with a suggestion that the feasibility report may be revised accordingly. The revised feasibility report was received by the department in May, 1991. The proposal was then sent to Central Electricity Authority for statutory techno-economic clearance. The comments of Central Electricity Authority were received in December, 1991.

(c) to (e). As per the comments of the Central Electricity Authority a Solar Thermal Power Plant of 30 MW capacity on the suggested technology may prove to be highly capital intensive and economically un-vi-

able. In view of this, it is decided not to approve the project. During the course of techno-economic analysis of the project, possibility of involving a central organisation like NTPC for implementation of the project was also explored. Government of Rajasthan conveyed its non-objection to such a possibility.

Smoking in International Flights of Indian Airlines and Air India

7063 SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to ban smoking in international flights of the Indian Airlines/Air India; and

(b) if so, the names of the International airlines which have banned smoking in its flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. None of the international carriers operating to India has banned smoking on its flights.

Inter-State Water Disputes

7064. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: DR. D. VENKATESHWARA RAO: SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Inter state water disputes pending with the Union Government for settlement ; and

(b) the methods the Government are contemplating to solve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHANRAN SHUKLA): ((a) and (b). Under the provisions of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, two disputes, namely sharing of surplus Ravi and Peas waters and sharing of Cauvery waters have been referred to the Tribunals in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. The Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal has given its Report in January, 1987 and the Government of India and Party States have made further reference as envisaged under the Act to seek explanation/guidance of the Tribunal on its Report. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed on order on 25.6. 1991 granting interim relief to Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. As regards the proposal from Madhya Pradesh for consideration of the questions associated with Mahi-Bajai sagar under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, a preliminary inter-State meeting was held on February 6, 1991.

In addition, there are some inter-State issues pertaining to matters such as interpretation of earlier agreements and sharing of surplus waters viz. Sharing of Yamuna water (Upto Okhla), interpretation of Bansagar Agreement on Sone waters, interpretation of Mahi waters Agreement between Rajasthan and Gujarat. For amicable settlement of inter-State issues in water resources between the States a Standing Committee of the national Water Resources Council has been constituted.

Flights to Gulf Countries

7065. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether more flights to the Gulf sector are likely to be operated during summer; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?